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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IGA-02 L-03 H-02

COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 RSR-01 /138 W
---------- 042415
R 101329Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7098
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2455

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EFIN JO KU
SUBJ: KUWAIT AID TO JORDAN

REF: STATE 129673

SUMMARY: JORDANIAN ENVOY AL-RIFAI FOUND GOK UNWILLING CONSIDER RESUMPTION AID TO JORDAN UNLESS JORDAN RENEWS FULL RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT AND THOSE STATES REQUEST RESUMPTION. CROWN PRINCE/ PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD REPORTEDLY TOLD JORDANIANS TIME IS NOT YET APPROPRIATE. I RECOMMEND WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH JORDANIANS AND REFRAIN FROM FURTHER APPROACH UNTIL SITUATION DEVELOPS THAT GIVES SOME HOPE OF SUCCESS. END SUMMARY

1. KING HUSSEIN'S SPECIAL ENVOY, ABDUL MUN'IN AL-RIFAI VISITED KUWAIT JULY 1-3 PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF KUWAITI AID TO JORDAN. DEPARTING JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT, AL-HINDAWI, INFORMED ME JULY 9, HOWEVER, THAT KUWAITIS REMAINED UNRESPONSIVE. AL-RIFAI HAD EXPLAINED TO GOK HOW JORDAN'S RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE MUCH IMPROVED. MOREOVER, SINCE THESE COUNTRIES HAD NOT RAISED SUBJECT OF FEDAYEEN RETURN TO JORDAN, THAT ISSUE
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SHOULD ALSO NOT PREVENT KUWAITIS FROM RESUMING THEIR AID TO

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JORDAN. ACCORDING TO AL-HINDAWI, KUWAITIS TOLD AL-RIFAI THEY WERE PLEASED WITH IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, GOK'S TWO PRECONDITIONS TO RENEWAL OF SUBSIDY WERE (A) RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF JORDANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA AND (B) RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FROM EGYPT AND SYRIA ON BEHALF OF JORDAN FOR RESUMPTION OF KUWAITI AID.

2. AMBASSADOR AL-HINDAWI ADDED THAT KUWAITIS HAD SHOWN NO MOVEMENT ON ISSUE OF AID TO JORDAN AND THEY WERE NOT DISPOSED TO ACT AT PRESENT TIME.

3. I TOLD AL-HINDAWI THAT USG WOULD BE PLEASED TO RENEW ITS APPROA-
CHES
TO GOK ON THIS SUBJECT ANY TIME WE AND JORDANIANS FELT THIS COULD BE DONE WITH SOME HOPE OF SUCCESS. AMBASSADOR AL-HINDAWI SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR OFFER BUT HE FELT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT APPROACH AT PRESENT TIME WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. COMMENT: OUR UNDERSTANDING OF STATUS OF KUWAITI-KHARTOUM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO JORDAN IS THAT THESE FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED IN ANNUAL GOK BUDGETS BUT PAYMENT HAS BEEN "FROZEN." IN THEORY, GOK COULD LEGALLY RELEASE THIS AID WITHOUT FURTHER AUTHORIZATION BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH HAS ALREADY ADJOURNED FOR THE SUMMER. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE, AS PRACTICAL MATTER, GOK WILL NOT AGREE RELEASE FUNDS WITHOUT
SUCH APPROVAL TO AVOID LIKELY SEVERE CRITICISM FROM ASEMBLY WHEN IT RECONVENES.

5. REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS ON AL-RIFAI'S VISIT STATE THAT CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABIR AL-AHMAD TOLD AL-RIFAI THAT RESUMP-
TION OF KUWAITI AID TO JORDAN REQUIRES PROPER EXPLANATIONS

AND ARRANGEMENTS AND MORE TIME IN ORDER TO REACH FINAL DECISION. I BELIEVE THIS REPORT REFLECTS CURRENT VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER.

6. WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER APPROACHES TO GOK RE AID TO JORDAN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR JORDANIAN COLLEAGUES AND TIME APPROACH WHEN THEY AND WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE SUCCESSFUL. SINCE SUBJECT IS ONE WHICH IS SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNAL KUWAITI POLITICS, BELIEVE TALKS IN CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUED SECURITY
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DIALOGUE WITH KUWAIT WOULD BE NO MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OUR NORMAL DIRECT APPROACH, AND COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

7. SEPTEL FOLLOWS RE POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL KFAED AND KUWAITI PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING FOR JORDAN.
STOLTZFUS

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